



Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service HQ
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Our Ref: FOI 2026-096

Date: 23 March 2026

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA)

Thank you for your request, received by the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS) on 12 March 2026, in which you have sought information regarding SCTS operational case management system fields in the following terms:

Please provide the following information:

- 1. A list of all electronic fields or markers within the SCTS criminal case management system that record information relating to:***
 - a) jury directions***
 - b) corroboration issues***
 - c) evidential doctrines (if any)***
- 2. Any system design documentation, guidance notes, or administrative instructions describing what information court staff are required or permitted to record about jury directions within the system.***
- 3. Confirmation of whether any project, proposal, or discussion has taken place within the last ten years regarding the addition of searchable fields relating to evidential doctrines such as Moorov.***

For clarity, this request concerns the design and structure of administrative systems, rather than the content of any individual court record.

If any part of the request would exceed the cost limit under FOISA, please provide any information that can be supplied within the limit.

Whilst SCTS does try to provide information where possible, on this occasion I must give notice under Section 17 of FOISA, as the requested information is not information which SCTS holds.

By way of explanation, **with regards to points 1**, having carried out investigations with the SCTS Management Information Analysis Team, the Executive Director of Court Operation and Court Operations staff, I can confirm there is no such electronic fields and/or markers within the SCTS operational case management system relating to the categories listed.

As you are aware from previous information requests and responses you have received on same, SCTS uses a live operational case management system for the processing of court business which is designed for the sole purpose of processing court business. The information held on the operational case management system is structured for these needs rather than for statistical reporting or research purposes.

In terms of the information referenced in parts 1(a)-(c) of your request there is no operational requirement to record this information in the SCTS case management system for the purpose of processing court business.

For completeness, as explained in previous response issued under SCTS ref FOI 2026-067, information recorded in relation to a Judges direction to a jury, is only contained within documents lodged for the purposes of proceedings and documents created by administrative staff during such proceedings and is therefore exempt. Namely within audio and/or transcriptions of solemn case proceedings.

With regards to point 2, as no such electronic fields and/or markers exist within the operational case management system – I can also confirm there is therefore no system design documentation, guidance notes, or administrative instructions – as the information noted is not information which SCTS administrative staff require to record.

Accordingly, with regards to points 1 and 2 of your request, I give notice in terms of Section 17 of FOISA that the requested information is information which SCTS does not hold.

With regards to point 3, I should explain that under FOISA, public authorities are required to provide access to recorded information held by the authority.

The framing of this point of your request asks SCTS to confirm a position rather than asking for recorded information held.

As FOISA does not oblige authorities to create new information or provide explanations that are not already held, this is not considered valid in line with Section 8(1) of FOISA.

That said, whilst the framing of this point is not considered a valid request under FOISA - to be of assistance, I have liaised with both the SCTS Management Information Analysis Team and Executive Director of Court Operation, who would be involved and/or consulted in the event that any such project, proposal and/or discussion had taken place.

Following investigations made, I can confirm there has been no such project, proposal, or discussion within the last ten years with regards to the addition of searchable fields relating to evidential doctrines.

Should you feel dissatisfied with this response or the manner in which your request has been handled, FOISA provides for a review process to be conducted. Should you wish to take advantage of this process you may apply in writing for a review. Your request should provide details of why you wish a review to be carried out and should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter to:-

The Freedom of Information Officer
Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
Edinburgh
EH11 3X
foi@scotcourts.gov.uk

Following that review should you still feel dissatisfied, you have the right to lodge an appeal with the Scottish Information Commissioner either online:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>

or at the following address:-

Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St. Andrews
FIFE

Yours sincerely,

Ellen Bannatyne

Information & Correspondence Officer